



City of Methuen, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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James P. Jajuga
Mayor

November 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chair Pai:

We write to express our concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

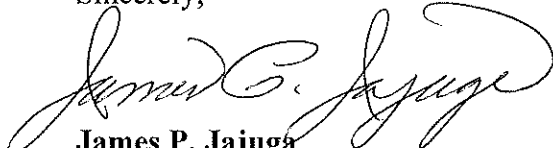
The City of Methuen, which is 25 miles North-Northwest of Boston, has about 50,000 residents, and a strong presence on our cable television system via the Public, Education and Government channels. We recently strengthened our commitment to our Government coverage through working with our Public Access channel's organization to train and provide additional people to cover meetings, record official events and create new programming to inform our citizens of services available to them. Our public channel is also providing real world experience to our High school students through a new internship program. We see these as important to keeping our community informed.

Our community channels bring not only meetings and official events to the residents, but also high school football and basketball, concerts, lectures and other events. They are also involved in non-partisan State and Local election coverage, giving all candidates access to another forum for sharing their positions on the issues. For 15 years, the Public station has produced the award winning newsmagazine "Methuen Now" which highlights what is good about our city. In addition, several of our local churches also cablecast their Sunday services on the Public station for home bound residents.

This strong local presence enables the residents of Methuen to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. We believe that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



James P. Jajuga
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Methuen City Council
Methuen School Committee